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(FOUO 7/80)

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JPRS L/8922

13 February 1980

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 7/80)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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BURMA

BRIEFS

MOULMEIN DRUG ARRESTS--Kado, 24 December--The people's police stations in Moulmein township are successfully suppressing and preventing narcotic drugs under "Operation Bwe Pyu" being launched by the Narcotic Drugs Suppression and Prevention Committee of the Moulmein Township People's Council. Between January and the end of November 1979, a total of 84 drug cases, involving 116 persons, were filed by the police stations with the township courts under Sections 6(B), 10(B) and 14(D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. So far, the courts have heard over 60 cases and handed down decisions and meted out punishments. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 15 Jan 80 p 7 BK]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

RAW OPIUM CONCEALED IN CAR FENDER

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Nov 79 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR. Thurs. — Police have seized \$14,000 worth of raw opium hidden in a secret compartment in the rear mudguard of a car in Sungai Patani, Kedah.

CID director Datuk Abdul Rahman Ismail said today that the 14 kilogrammes of opium, after being processed, could produce 1.4 kilos of high grade heroin and provide 288,744 shots.

"We have also detained a suspected dadah trafficker," he added.

Following a tip-off last Thursday, officers from the anti-narcotics division at Bukit Aman Police Headquarters intercepted a red Volkswagen about 3.10 p.m. at Sungai Patani.

They detained the driver and later searched the car thoroughly at the Sungai Patani police station.

"We found 13 packets, each weighing about a

kilogramme, in a secret compartment in the rear left mudguard," Datuk Rahman said.

Police also recently seized a machine which can compress heroin into two-inch capsules.

Capsules

"These capsules cannot be taken orally. They are meant only for concealment," Datuk Rahman said.

Over the past three weeks, anti-narcotics officers have seized about 6.3 kilogrammes of heroin.

They have also detained nine people in connection with dadah trafficking and distribution.

In August, police destroyed a heroin-processing plant in Kedah.

Datuk Rahman said: "We also seized chemicals and apparatus from the plant."

"The chemicals included acetic anhydride, caffeine, hydrochloric

acid and sodium carbonate."

He warned that dadah distributors were constantly finding ways of concealing dadah to evade arrests.

Datuk Rahman said that at the moment, the supply of dadah was scarce in the country and warned that addicts would resort to crime in their desperation.



The opium packets hidden in the back of the car.

CS0: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

POLICE CONCERNED ABOUT HARD DRUG SCENE

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 11 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

PA Whangarei

Marijuana is being grown in Northland and sold to criminal syndicates in Auckland and further south, according to the head of the Whangarei drug squad, Detective Sergeant J. R. Carr.

The police are apprehensive that growing use of hard drugs could cause an outbreak of violence in the north.

Sergeant Carr said yesterday that the police knew of marijuana plantations of 5000 to 6000 plants each.

"Northland is the best area in New Zealand for growing it," he said.

He believes that about 30 per cent of Northland's young people use marijuana.

Detective Sergeant Carr said that the drug squad had two members to cover the whole of Northland. A third member had recently been allocated by the Government.

"It is an impossible situation. We have to rely on assistance from the public."

He said that the widespread use of marijuana caused many people to take a "negative attitude" and be unhelpful to the police.

The use of hard drugs in the region was low at present, and most violence was confined within the drug scene.

"With cannabis, you have rip-offs. Those in the drug scene steal from one another," Mr Carr said.

The motivation for people to become connected with the drug scene was "the mighty dollar."

The Whangarei police chief, Superintendent E. C. Welsh, said that violence was a "set issue" of the drug scene.

"Violent criminals get into the scene," he said.

"Criminals deal in the supply of not only hard drugs but also marijuana, which is said to be the least dangerous."

He said that internal violence in the cannabis scene was caused mainly by rip-offs and jealousies.

CS0: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

POLICE EXPECT BUMPER MARIHUANA CROP

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 16 Jan 80 p 1

[Text] Police think there will be a bumper marijuana harvest this year.

Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Scott, the deputy director of the crime section at Police National Headquarters, said today that harvesting of this year's marijuana crop had already commenced.

The cropping normally starts in the north of the country and moves south, according to weather patterns.

Comparable

Mr Scott said that a big harvest was expected and it was likely to be at least as big as that of last year.

Police can obviously not give a precise or even an estimated tonnage of what the crop would be, but Mr Scott said that this last season had been a good one for growing.

He said that the current price of cannabis on the street was between \$8 and \$10 for 5g although this price tended to fluctuate across the country.

It is not known whether or not the predicted good harvest will mean that street prices will drop when the harvest is completed and the first of this year's crop comes onto the market.

However, Mr Scott did say that police did not expect any significant increase in the importation of cannabis leaf material from other countries.

So far this year police have made two major seizures of cannabis plants in New Zealand.

At the beginning of the month they seized (?1106) plants at Henderson in Auckland.

Finds

And last week in the Akatarawas, north of Wellington, a cultivation of 400 plants was found by trappers. The plot, which was described as being "extremely well disguised by a sophisticated construction," was estimated to have a top street price of about \$150,000.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL BANS DRUG BOOKS

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 10 Jan 80 p 7

[Text]

PA Wellington

Three books which have no sexual theme have been declared indecent by the Indecent Publications Tribunal because they deal in illegal drugs. One of the banned books was first published in 1866.

The tribunal has issued a series of decisions over the name of its outgoing chairman, Mr Justice Grieg.

Only three members what is usually a tribunal of five considered the drug books.

It was not the first time that the tribunal had banned books dealing with drug themes.

It is able to take such action under the Indecent Publications Act, 1963,

which defines indecent as "describing, depicting, expressing, or otherwise dealing with matters of sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in a manner that is injurious to the public good."

The three books banned in the latest decision are "The Complete Guide to Growing Marijuana — the Culture and Management of Hemp (published by Wild and Woolley Pty, Ltd); "High Times Encyclopaedia of Recreational Drugs" (published by Stonehill Publishing Company; and "Stone Age Winter '78 No. 1" (published by Stone Age Corporation).

The first of the publications was originally published as a monograph in

1866 for apparently serious purposes.

According to Mr Justice Grieg, the dominant effect of the books is to encourage the cultivation of the use of drugs listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1975, including cannabis and heroin.

"As a result, the effect is to approve and encourage conduct which involves what is properly considered and defined in that act as a serious crime."

Sitting on the tribunal were Mr Justice Grieg, Mrs L. Edmond, and Mrs H. B. Dick.

Mr P. E. Leloir appeared for the Comptroller of Customs.

The publishers were not presented.

CS0: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

LARGE CANNABIS PLOT DESTROYED IN AKATARAWAS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 11 Jan 80 p 1

[Text]

WELLINGTON police have destroyed a large cultivation of cannabis plants in the Akatarawas just eight kilometres from Brown Owl, Upper Hutt.

The highly sophisticated growing operation contained 400 plants, many of them over a metre high and reaching maturity.

The value of the plot to those who set it up is hard to estimate, but police believe that once all plants were fully mature the top street price for the haul would be about \$150,000.

Trampers

The plot, sited in a sunny spot on the side of a hill about an hour's trek from

the main road, was discovered last weekend by trampers.

An area of bush measuring 15 metres by 30 metres had been cleared. The plot was surrounded by wire mesh and covered by green fish net so the plants could not be discovered from the air.

Detective Inspector Jean Dougall, officer in charge of the district CIB, said the plot was extremely well disguised by a sophisticated construction.

There was evidence that part of the construction had been there for 18 months or more and there was a possibility that a crop of marijuana had been harvested last summer.

The site had been hacked

out of the bush with chainsaws and axes.

A four man drug squad team headed by Detective Sergeant Merv Theobald went into the area on Monday to destroy the crop. They bought back a sack full for analysis by the Chemistry Division of the DSIR.

Miss Dougal said today that it had not been feasible for police to keep the plot under surveillance in the hope of catching the people responsible.

Heavy rain in recent weeks meant that the plants would not have needed any watering for some time.

With the holidays and other inquiries in train she did not have enough staff to keep the area under surveillance for 24 hours a day for

the two to three weeks that might have been required.

Terrain

Another difficulty was the terrain.

There were indications that no one had visited the plot for two to three weeks.

"The question is how far we could extend ourselves for this type of operation. But that's not to say we're not keeping other plantations under surveillance," she said.

The drug squad are continuing inquiries in an effort to find out who planted the crop. Mr Theobald said he believed there was a "reasonable chance" of catching those responsible.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN IMPORTING CHARGE--A 29-year-old unemployed compositor appeared in the Magistrate's Court today charged with importing heroin into Auckland on December 28. The charge against Adrian Philip Morgan, who was born in Singapore and now lives in Christchurch, was laid indictably. He was remanded in custody until Monday by JPs Mr R. W. Clevely and Mr K. A. Werne. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 5 Jan 80 p 1]

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURE IN GUJRANWALA--Gujranwala, Jan 21: The city police and the Excise Dept in a joint raid had recovered illicit drugs containing 3,000 bottles of tincture and Zingiberaceac from New Public Medical Store. Urdu Bazar; here, worth Rs 1 lakh. The store was selling these items through the backdoors to the addicts, charging high prices. A fictitious customer was sent to this store to whom two bottles were sold. After that the raid was conducted under the directions of Raja Mohammad Sarfraz Khan SSP of Gujranwala; which was supervised by DSP Rab Nawaz Khan. The police arrested Ahmadullah, proprietor of the store and his son, Amanullah, under Islamic Laws. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 22 Jan 80 p 4]

CSO: 5300

PHILIPPINES

HEROIN ENTRY TRACED TO HONG KONG

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Dec 79 p 36

[Text] Blocks of heroin may have reached the country through the mails all because of greed on the part of those charged with the task of safeguarding foreign air parcels.

This surfaced yesterday following the seizure last week of 47 air parcels from a house and a van in San Juan, Metro Manila, which customs probers said was a "syndicated operation."

The parcels, brought in from Hong Kong, reportedly arrived at the Manila International airport but were never turned over to the MIA post office and were immediately placed aboard a waiting private-owned van.

Customs sources said all the 34 consignees of the parcels were presumed fictitious as all parcels were addressed to Mandaluyong, Metro Manila.

The parcels, now in the custody of the customs intelligence and investigation division (CIID), were expected to be inventoried today by the customs auction and cargo disposal division under collector Amado Castro.

Some of the parcels already opened yielded general merchandise.

Whether some of the other parcels contained dangerous drugs as had been discovered in the past remained to be seen.

CSO: 5300

VIETNAM

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM, FOREIGN CURRENCY CASE GOES TO TRIAL

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 25 Nov 79 p 4

[Article: "Trial for Violations of the Regulations on Opium Management and Foreign Exchange Management"]

[Text] On 23 November 1979, the people's court of Hanoi City held an open session to try (in first instance) a case of violation of the regulations concerning foreign exchange management.

The defendants were Nguyen Thanh Tung, Do Thi Chi, Hoang Thi Quan (Hanoi), Pham Thi Minh (Ho Chi Minh City, Pham Thi Xuyen and Hoang Thi Hoa (Hanoi).

During the period from before Binh Thin New Year Festival (1976) to August 1976, Do Thi Chi, Nguyen Thanh Tung, Hoang Thi Hoa and their accomplices had many times engaged in the traffic of foreign currencies and opium. They were arrested on 23 August 1976. Nguyen Thanh Tung was caught red-handed at Gia Lam airport on his way to Ho Chi Minh City with incriminating evidence: 17 kgs of opium and \$100.

This was a serious case of illegal purchase, sale, storage and transportation of opium and foreign currency. Nguyen Thanh Tung and accomplices have committed the criminal act of violating the regulations regarding opium management and foreign exchange management.

The court handed down the following sentences: Tung, 6 years in jail, Chi 4 years in jail, Hoa 30 months in jail, Quan 18 months in jail, Minh 36 months in a prison camp. Xuyen has received a 34-month suspended term. The illegally obtained pieces of evidence have been confiscated and sent to the state bank. The defendants have been ordered to pay a fine on their illegal profit in accordance with the state laws and regulations currently in force.

9203

CSO: 5300

YUGOSLAVIA

'TANJUG' PRAISES EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-DRUG OPERATIONS

LD311500 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1345 GMT 31 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Belgrade, Jan. 31 (TANJUG)- Yugoslav customs officers are among the world's most successful in the struggle against drug smugglers and are given credit for this by their foreign colleagues.

In the course of the last four years Yugoslav customs officers successfully intervened on 410 occasions and seized nine tons of narcotic drugs. Marijuana and hashish had the largest share in the quantity, which also included 132 kilogrammes of the most destructive opium of which at least 100 million doses for drug addicts could have been made.

Yugoslavia is among leading countries in the world by the quantity of narcotics seized in trains, motor vehicles and at frontier crossings.

The shortest land route between the East and West goes through Yugoslavia and it has been "drug route" since long ago. The Yugoslav territory is interesting to smugglers above all as a transit area, since narcotics are assigned primarily to West European and American markets.

Turkey, Bulgaria and even Greece have similar geographic positions, but the largest portion of narcotics was seized in Yugoslavia mainly after narcotics had previously through gone control in these countries [sentence as received].

In 99 percent of the cases Yugoslav customs officials detected narcotics without prior warning by Interpol or by foreign national police.

The customs station at Dimitrovgrad, at the crossing on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border, is Yugoslavia's absolute recorder in drug detection. Nearly four-fifths of narcotics seized in Yugoslavia were detected at this (?frontier) check point. At first few metres of Yugoslav railway or road between Sofia and Belgrade, leading to the country's north-west border.

On an average one consignment of narcotic drugs is detected every third day. On December 25 last year alone 18.5 kilogrammes of heroine was detected here.

Last year those results brought to the customs station at Dimitrovgrad representatives of the U.S. Narcotic Drug Suppression Bureau.

On their maps, the Americans says, the customs station at Dimitrovgrad is marked with the biggest point.

However, the customs station at Dimitrovgrad has a red mark on smugglers' maps too-but as a check point which should be avoided. On the map of two seized smugglers from Lebanon Dimitrovgrad was crossed by a red pencil several times as a point which is to be circumvented.

Yugoslav customs officers, who attend modern specialized schools in Yugoslavia say they score successes thanks not only to the indispensable equipment which they dispose of, but also, and especially, thanks to study of smugglers' psychology and behaviour.

CSO: 5300

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Buenos Aires, 2 Jan (NA)--Police have arrested [name indistinct], Antonio Recia, Carlos Olguinti and Franciso Cirincione for drug trafficking, and have seized 500 grams of cocaine and 1,500 grams of marijuana. Cirincione, the head of the group, is wanted by the Chilean and Peruvian police for drug trafficking. [PY301608 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1822 GMT 23 Jan 80 PY]

FURTHER DRUG ARRESTS--The investigations brigade of the federal police have arrested Roberto Cardillo, Oscar Horacio Collar and Anselmo Delori for drug trafficking. The police seized 190 grams of cocaine. [PY301608 Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 24 Jan 80 p 8 PY]

COCA LEAVES SEIZED--The national gendarmerie reported that the La Quiaca squad near the Bolivian border has seized 400 kg of coca leaves, but the drug traffickers escaped. [PY301608 Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 23 Jan 80 p 4 PY]

CSO: 5300

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FIVE FINED FOR MARIHUANA, COCAINE TRAFFICKING

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 4 Jan 80 p 22

[Article by Manuel Silvestre B.]

[Text] Yesterday the Eighth Penal Council convicted five foreigners and one Dominican accused by the police of trafficking in marihuana and cocaine.

Fines ranging from 300 to 500 pesos were imposed on U.S. citizens George Moffa, William D. Ruggeri, Michael R. Lynch and Beverly Daffener, Venezuelan Ricardo Chacon Espinosa and Dominican Manuel Antonio Torres Rojas (Pichi).

Everyone accused denied being a drug trafficker, although some admitted they were users.

Torres Rojas was sentenced to pay a fine of 500 pesos. According to the police, at the time of his arrest he had in his possession 28 portions of cut marihuana and a number of seeds, the total weighing 180 grams. He said it was his intention to use the drug himself.

The American Moffa was fined 1,000 pesos. According to the police, he had 4 grams of cocaine in his possession in a plastic envelope. He was arrested at the International Airport of the Americas on 27 December.

Chacon Espinosa, Ruggeri and Lynch were fined 300 pesos, while Daffener was fined 600 pesos. According to the police, she was in possession of 4 portions of cut marihuana, 1,461 fertile seeds and 21 cigarette butts, also of marihuana.

According to the police report, Daffener stated that she bought the drug in the United States for \$40 for her own use.

U.S. Prof Meredith Wolf, 32 years old, was released by Judge Luis Dario Bueno Pineda, who found her innocent of the charges made against her by the police. She was arrested in the company of Daffener, 35 years old, who submitted to arrest in Room 412 of the Sheraton Hotel.

Miss Wolf said she knew nothing of the drug with which her roommate was connected and has never used marihuana or any other drug.

8568

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

INTERNATIONAL DRUG MAFIA DISCOVERED, EIGHT ARRESTED

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jan 80 p 24

[Text] Guayaquil, 15 January (AFP)--The Guayas Section of Interpol has uncovered what is apparently one of the most powerful gangs of drug traffickers that has been operating for a long time both locally and internationally. It succeeded in capturing eight of the main individuals engaged in this criminal activity.

Along with the arrests, the investigators seized more than 5 kilograms of pure cocaine and 13,300 sucres in cash. They also seized 5 vehicles, 4 luxury villas, a large amount of jewels, 5 shotguns and 4 revolvers, several sound systems and other valuable items, all of which is estimated to be worth about 100 million sucres.

The head of the gang was identified as Manuel Eduardo Pombar Santana, and arrested along with him were his wife, Ruth Tapia Guerrero de Pombar, and his lover, Ana Noboa Wong, and Gladys Lucas, Wilson Noboa Freire, Jose Melquiades Cedillo Gonzalez, Juan Escalante Rodriguez and Sara Moncayo Wong, all of whom were placed in Litoral Penitentiary on orders from the 10th criminal court judge in Guayas. The trafficking organization received the raw cocaine from Peruvian suppliers who brought the paste in through the border of Loja Province and delivered it to Pombar's agents in Macara. From there it was brought to Guayaquil to be refined.

Some of the drug was sold in Guayaquil, but most of the output was earmarked for world markets, inasmuch as the gang had ties with other mafias in Colombia and Panama and with U.S. traffickers operating out of New York and Miami.

As far as could be established, the Guayas Section of Interpol had been hot on the trail of Pombar Santana for a number of months but had to wait for the precise moment to arrest him. This took place on the 11th of this month at his own residence in the Nueve de Octubre suburban development, where he owned a luxurious villa (No 4) on Block No 5.

After the capture of the gang leader, Interpol agents also arrested his wife, Ruth Tapia Guerrero de Pombar, in the same residence, taking her by surprise as she was about to hide the kilograms of pure cocaine that she kept in her bedroom. Based on these initial arrests, the evidence gathered and the statements made during the investigation, Interpol agents then proceeded to arrest Pombar's mistress, Ana Guillermina Noboa Wong, in whose possession was found a kilogram of cocaine hydrochloride; Gladys Lucas; Jose Melquiades Cedillo Gonzalez, who lived in the La Alborada suburban development; Jose Abel Escalante Rodriguez; Jose Cedillo Gonzalez and Sara Moncayo Wong.

Also implicated in the foul business were Guillermo Escalante, Ricardo Cedillo, Cesar and Galo Merchan, Manuel Choes and Maximo Palma, who are at large.

Also tied to the ill-famed group were Carlos Ramirez Vargas, better known as "Ramillete," who is an inmate at the Litoral Penitentiary; his son, Francisco Ramirez; Otto Lucas Rivera, another powerful drug trafficker doing time in the penitentiary; Rowedo Rodriguez Fuentes, alias Telefunken, who is charged with murdering Interpol agent Ricardo Munoz, ("El Soro").

8743

CS0: 5300

ECUADOR

SHOOTOUT LEAVES DRUG TRAFFICKER DEAD IN LOJA

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Jan 80 p A-10

[Text] Loja, 7 January--According to a report from Jimbura Parish in the canton of Espindola, a shootout took place several days ago in which Peruvian citizen Feliciano Alvarez was killed and Ecuadorean citizen Julio Vera was wounded. The episode resulted from a struggle over a large shipment of drugs, close to 50 kilograms of cocaine paste valued at around 4 million sucres.

The Events

One of the most accepted accounts is as follows:

The buyers and sellers agreed to carry out the transaction at a house owned by Mr Waldomiro Cordero near the border.

Edgar Rojas, Feliciano Alvarez (deceased), Julio Vera and an as yet unidentified individual went to the house. Edgar Rojas left on the pretext that he was going to bring the drug, but as he was taking a long time, the three who were waiting began drinking hard liquor.

A while later, one of them left the house, claiming that he was going to bring more liquor, but he never returned. Uneasy over the absence of the other two, the traffickers who remained in the house began to worry and decided to go out and look for their buddies. But that was when they were met with a surprise. The doors and windows of the house had been secured from the outside, and when they peered out through holes, they realized that they were cornered and that four individuals, one of them in a police uniform, were preparing to attack them. After trying for a long time to force the door open, they succeeded. In their hasty flight, Feliciano Alvarez was shot right in the skull, dying instantly, and Julio Vera, despite taking a bullet to the head, managed to cross the border, with his whereabouts as yet unknown.

And What About the Drug?

Feliciano Alvarez was buried in Jimbura, after the authorities performed an autopsy on him. Nothing is known, however, about the sizable booty of drugs and money.

8743

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

DRUG ADDICTION, TRAFFICKING CAUSE CONCERN

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Dec 79 pp 1, 19

[Article by Patricio Torres and Eleodoro Ayllon: "Drugs in Ecuador"]

[Text] The problem of drug addiction has begun to worry people in broad sectors of Ecuador's population, owing to the marked rise in the number of drug users in the past few years and to the fact that Ecuador is an important link in a formidable chain of international illicit narcotics traffic.

The size of the problem is seen in the rise of marihuana use and gluesniffing. Police sources say that because of its geographic position Ecuador is a connection and conduit between producers and the consumer markets, especially in the United States.

A sample survey by the Health Ministry in 1976 on available data concludes that of the 3,000 students interviewed, 36.4 percent admitted they were addicted to some drug. Marihuana was smoked by 9.6 percent, some 6.5 percent took tranquilizers and 19 percent sniffed glue.

Few Statistics

A similar study by the Guayas Interpol on persons arrested because of drugs showed 60 percent admitting they used marihuana, 6.59 using "base" and marihuana, 3.85 percent sniffing, and 1.1 percent using marihuana and cocaine with 0.55 percent using cocaine only.

These statistics from previous years, the former study from 1976 and the latter from 1978, do not come close to depicting the amount of drug use in Ecuador. They are published figures arrived at unscientifically for the most part and lack an adequate frame of reference.

Drug use in Ecuador is more accurately presented in police statistics which show that every day more pushers and addicts are arrested, while just 5 years ago this sort of thing was almost unknown.

Drugs and Young People

Also, it is obvious that the use of drugs has gone up among young people, especially among college and university students, to the point that the trend is self-sustained and a cause for worry to the authorities and to parents.

Interpol says that just as in Colombia, cocaine trafficking is significant in Ecuador. They indicate that the raw material for the drug is refined in Ecuador and sent as pure cocaine to the United States via "mail-carriers," usually women, many of whom have been caught by U.S. police.

Between 1975 and 1978, Interpol Ecuador arrested 5,325 traffickers and confiscated 1,146,260 grams of cocaine paste, 538,014 grams of marihuana, 2,825 grams of pure cocaine and 200 grams of opium. It cracked three international drug rings and uncovered hidden laboratories where the drug was being refined.

Actually Ecuador does not produce drugs. It serves as the bridge between producers and the consumer markets abroad. The police have found hardly any coca, marihuana or opium growing in Ecuador and what they found they exterminated.

However, Interpol has established that of the total amount carried through Ecuador, about 25 percent of it remains here. Of this amount, 15 percent is converted into cocaine chloral hydrate for export to the United States and the remaining 10 percent is sold to Ecuadorean addicts.

Arrested pushers have provided important information about the drug network. Almost all have stated that the drug is bought in Bolivia, in the cities of La Paz, Santacruz, Cochabamba and Oruro, and then sent by "carriers" and other methods via Argentina and Peru to Ecuador. From Ecuador it is taken to Colombia generally by land in such a way as to avoid police detection.

Dangerous Proportions

On the other hand, according to the police and the health ministry, the growth of drug use is assuming dangerous proportions, especially among students of colleges and universities.

The percentage of students who are drug-dependent, as the World Health Organization calls drug addicts, went up from zero in 1974 to 22 percent in 1979, a figure which is alarming but which in our opinion understates the problem.

Drug users are broken down as 67.24 percent representing men and women between 20 and 34 years of age, 18 percent 19 or under, 12 percent over 35 and 1 percent 50 or over.

Youth

It has been observed that young persons over 20 are the group with the most addicts. Sociological studies state that the problem for youth arises because of an impulse to rebel and protest against a society which is indifferent, uncommunicative, and lacking in trust, or an impulse to excel or belong to a group or simply a way of finding new experiences.

However, that can happen and actually does happen in the industrialized nations, but in Ecuador, where society has not yet reached extreme dehumanization and lack of communication, drugs are consumed mainly out of curiosity or because of addiction and dependence.

This matter must be confronted by the authorities with the seriousness it deserves and studied in depth. The World Health Organization reports that there are 550 million opium addicts worldwide, 430 million marihuana smokers, 375 million cocaine addicts and 220 million who inhale solvents. Let us hope Ecuadoreans will not add to those numbers.

11,989
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

GANG'S SEIZURE--Interpol in Guayaquil has discovered a new system to ship drugs abroad. A total of 10 smugglers have been arrested. Eduardo Pompar Santana and his wife were sending abroad rolls of Ecuadorean cloth into which they had stuffed cocaine protected in plastic foam. The shipments were made to Miami and the Bahamas to Jose Blanco or Curtis MacMillan. Often the rolls of cloth were hand-carried by Jorge Valdivieso, who is now wanted by the police. [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 22 Jan 80 PA]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Guayaquil, 29. The El Oro Interpol unit arrested four traffickers in two separate actions, one of which stopped a sale of 40 kilograms of cocaine paste. The agents went from Machala to Macara, Loja province, where they confiscated 2,250 grams of paste and arrested Sergio Quezada, Segundo Pinagua and Angel Porfirio Correa for possession. The arrests crowned an investigative effort and surprised Pinagua and Quezada as Pinagua was buying 40 kilograms of paste. The cocaine was found in Quezada's possession. In the other operation Interpol arrested Teodoro Concepcion Rojas Betancourt, confiscating 59 packages of marihuana hidden on a barge docked in Puerto Bolivar harbor. Investigations established that the supplier is a man called "El Macho" who is being sought by the police. The pushers arrested will be placed under the jurisdiction of the penal court. [Text] [Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 31 Dec 79 p A-16] 11989

CSO: 5300

PERU

PERUVIAN, FRG POLICE COOPERATE IN ARRESTS OF SMUGGLING RING

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 22 Jan 80 p 8

[Article: "Cocaine for Frankfurt: Drug Smugglers Arrested in Lima/Police Cooperation"]

[Text] Lima, 21 January (dpa). He is 32 years of age and comes from Frankfurt. For 2 months he has been in prison in Lima (Peru). In letters addressed to the German Embassy he writes that his food is bad, and that he has had to sell most of his clothes to improve his life at the Luringacho penal institution.

German and Peruvian police accuse the prisoner of attempting to organize traffic in cocaine between Frankfurt and Lima. Another eight persons are charged with him, including two Austrians (also jailed in Lima.) Officers of the Federal Criminal Police Bureau [BKA] and the criminal police of Frankfurt, in cooperation with the Peruvian police, determined in Lima that the group, stemming from the bordello-milieu of Frankfurt, wanted to make a lot of money in Peru.

That was the idea of the cocaine traffickers. In Lima they bought cocaine hydrochloride at DM 15 a gram, diluted the substance to the usual 1:3 ratio, and marketed it in Germany at DM 450 a gram. Since most Peruvians are very poor, the Frankfurters quickly found girls who were ready to smuggle the cocaine for payment to Germany. In Germany the young women were to be recruited into the call girl rings run by procurers. That happened in September.

After the smuggling had started, the chief accused returned to Lima on 14 October, took a room in the best hotel in the city, and a week later rented an apartment for a 400 dollar monthly rent on a main shopping street in the prestigious Miraflores neighborhood.

Exactly 1 month later, on 14 November, the police acted. A tip from Frankfurt circles had led to the trail. The chief accused had bragged in Frankfurt about his profits. The district court gave permission to bug his telephone, so that the police rapidly obtained evidence. In September the man had sold DM 30,000 worth of cocaine at the Frankfurt East Railway Station alone.

The police think that had it not been for their rapid action the entire Rhine-Main district would soon have been obtaining cocaine from Lima. For the transportation of the drug the accused had brought along ladies boots from Germany; the heels were to be filled with cocaine. But this trick was no longer news to the officers of the criminal police at Frankfurt airport, and one of the female smugglers was arrested in Frankfurt.

The members of the gang had gathered their first experiences in drug smuggling transporting hashish. On several trips they brought each time 70 to 80 kilograms of hashish from Morocco through Spain into the FRG.

The Peruvians apparently want to establish a precedent with the trial, that apparently will not begin before the end of the year. The accused--Peruvian law does not differentiate between accused and defendant--have to expect sentences of 6 to 8 years in jail.

Proof that the guards in Peruvian jails do not wear kid gloves was given to the remanded prisoners on the day before Christmas Eve. The police had learned of an escape attempt, for which the prisoners had already prepared dynamite. The result: the prisoners were herded into the yard and beaten. In his letter to the German Embassy the Frankfurter writes of severe bruises on his body, and of broken bones suffered by other prisoners.

Peru and Bolivia are the largest coca producers in the world. The green-yellow leaves have been sold on the markets of Peru since Inca times. The undernourished Indians chew the leaves to increase their physical efficiency and fend off exhaustion.

Coca is grown in Peru, under government license. Some 20,000 farmers are allowed to plant 1 hectare each with coca. But the Peruvian police estimate that some 50,000 Peruvians in the country's northern part, on the border between the highlands and the jungle, plant 60,000 hectares of coca for the illegal trade. The greatest part of the harvest is taken by small planes to Colombia to be processed. Some 55 kilograms of coca leaves yield about 1 kilogram of raw cocaine. In a proportion of 2.5 to 1 this is processed into a paste, which yields cocaine powder as a result of a chemical process. The coca fields are harvested four times a year, the yield being about 1,000 kilograms per hectare. Farmers who bring their coca harvest to the illegal market earn DM 10,000 to 15,000 a year per hectare, an enormously high sum for Peruvian farmers.

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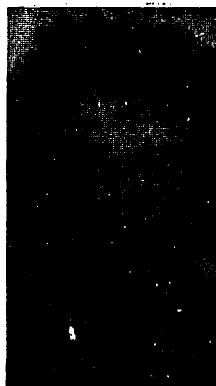
URUGUAY

DRUG TRAFFICKER ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH THEFT, FRAUD

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 5 Jan 80 p 18

/Text/ The Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Squad of the National Directorate for Intelligence and Information, in compliance with orders of the Second Sessions Court trial judge, arrested international criminal Dison Ferraz Maffei, Uruguayan, married, 43 years old, a resident of the area of Ferreira and 10th Streets (Parque del Plata, Canelones), for his involvement with other criminals engaged in procuring and drug trafficking.

After questioning Ferraz, the judge arraigned him for "Repeated Theft and Fraud."



Dison Ferraz Maffei

CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

PURE COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKER ARRESTED

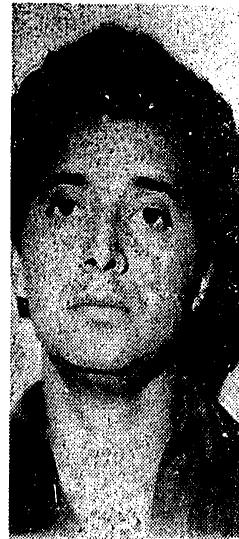
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Dec 79 p D-25

[Text] A kilogram of cocaine, valued at 1 million bolivars, was confiscated in an apartment in the El Marques subdivision from a presumed trafficker, according to the JTP [Judicial Technical Police] national investigations chief, Commissioner Carlos Jimenez Lopez.

The arrested man was identified as Luis Ernesto Buitrago, from Tachira state, who was placed under court jurisdiction at the Catia police station.

Jimenez Lopez said that also a significant sum of money, weighing equipment and plastic bags used in cocaine sales were confiscated at the apartment.

The commissioner remarked that cocaine has been used at a high rate in recent days at Caracas night clubs, and this led the police to carry out a series of operations with special agents of the narcotics bureau.



Luis Ernesto Buitrago

The police believe that the drug is brought into Venezuela in an almost pure state and is refined in laboratories directed by a fair-sized ring of pushers, who then place it on the market.

The JTP investigations director concluded by saying that at present an intensive campaign is going on in the central part of the nation.

11989
CSO: 5300

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

COCAINE TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--(By Francisco Gomez)--A woman allegedly engaged in cocaine trafficking has been arrested, and during a search of her residence police seized a valuable cache of drugs and a large sum of money. According to the information furnished by the Metropolitan Police, which made the arrest, its Intelligence and Anti-Vice Division had for some time been on the trail of a couple that was engaged in cocaine trafficking in the western part of the city. Yesterday at noon, in the presence of a judge from the Public Ministry, division agents searched Block 5, 2nd Floor, Apartment 3 in the Simon Bolivar urban development. Inside the apartment they found Erilu Irasquin de Figuera, 33, the alleged drug trafficker, and under her bed they discovered 52 vials of cocaine, marihuana, injection needles, bullets and close to 10,000 bolivars, apparently the proceeds from the sale of the drug. Her husband, whose identity was not revealed, was not present when the apartment was searched but is currently being sought throughout the country. The woman was placed in the custody of the Narcotics Division of the Judicial Technical Police. [Text] [Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 13 Jan 80 p 4] 8743

CSO: 5300

LEBANON

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZED AT PORT--Customs officials at Tripoli port today confiscated new furniture which was being shipped to Australia. A large quantity of hashish worth about \$2 million was discovered inside the furniture. The investigation is continuing to find the real owners of the furniture and the other parties dealing with them. [Text] [NC151912 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC]

HASHISH CONFISCATION--The Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Tripoli have seized a big quantity of hashish--estimated at 6 tons--that was hidden in a lemon grove in al-Baddawi belonging to Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir Chamrawi. The hashish has been removed to Tripoli municipal stadium and Chamrawi is being interrogated to identify its owner. [NC241325 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Jan 80 p 5 NC]

HASHISH CONFISCATED FROM GROVES--Hashish weighing 1,900 kg has been confiscated from groves in Tripoli and transported to the government house in Tripoli. Six tons of hashish was confiscated from the same groves a week ago. [Text] [NC270741 Voice of Lebanon in Arabic [Clandestine] to Lebanon 0615 GMT 27 Jan 80 NC]

CSO: 5300

USSR

PROBLEMS OF THE 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE'

Moscow AZIYA I AFRIKA SEGODNYA in Russian No 9, signed to press 17 Aug 79
pp 52-53

[Article by V Kosmodanianskiy, Candidate in Historical Sciences in response to a request from reader V N Sviridov of Kaluga for information on this center of opium poppy cultivation]

[Text] Over most of the expanse ranging from the Tibetan plateau to the highlands of Burma, Southern China, Western Laos and Northern Thailand, peasants from the Meo tribe are cutting into the green, sap-bearing heads of poppies. After a certain amount of time, these same droplets which have been converted into white crystals of heroin are being dissolved in the syringes of narcotics addicts in other parts of the world.

The problem of narcotics production and distribution, this scourge of modern capitalistic society, looms menacingly in the nations of the West.

A major part of the world's production of opium and heroin comes from the region along the boundaries of Burma, Laos and Thailand known as the "Golden Triangle." Approximately 70 percent of the opium enters the United States from right here. Numerous efforts by local authorities to suppress cultivation of the opium poppy, to replace it with other forms of agriculture and to resettle the Meo in lowland areas have not had the desired results. "See how difficult it is," says a Meo tribesman pointing to a bag of potatoes he has agreed to grow as a second crop. "How do I get it to market?" For the Meo who measure the journey to the nearest road, not in kilometers but in days or even weeks, this is an extremely serious problem. Suggestions to cultivate beans, mushrooms or apples or that they breed rabbits instead of poppies have not engendered enthusiasm among the Meo since the profit from poppies is incomparably better than that from any other agricultural crop.

Tradition is still another, if not the most difficult, obstacle to suppressing cultivation of the opium poppy. The Meo have grown poppies for centuries.

This crop was brought to China from Persia in about the 17th century. During the 18th century the English practiced opium smoking in China on a broad scale but later suddenly withdrew supply of the narcotic. This was when the Meo emerged as its chief and sole suppliers.

For the Meo, opium is not simply the end product of a crop but is stored in every home as capital. In time, opium ripens and its value increases. This generally takes place over a period of 2 to 3 years. When the Meo peasant has a need for ready cash, he uses opium instead of silver or paper currency. When the demand and price for opium reaches a peak, the Meo tribesman packs up the year's harvest in a sack, swings it over his shoulder and heads for the nearest market place. Long and bitter experience have taught the Meo not to use opium themselves. A young man who smokes opium is subject to ostracism within the community as well as among his own family. Only the elderly and the sick of society are permitted to smoke opium and then only as a therapeutic drug.

Perhaps the only factor capable of having any effect on the Meo's regard for the problem of reorienting their economy is the work intensiveness of the process of cultivating poppies.

The first step in this process consists of selecting a planting site. This site is chosen with great care--the soil is even tested for taste. Since poppies grow only in mountainous areas at an altitude of at least 1,000 meters, this is where the Meo also build their villages. During the hot, dry season, the trees at the chosen site are cut, allowed to dry and then burned, covering the ground with a layer of ash. The soil is carefully dug and spaded and then the poppies are planted, after which the cultivating process is repeated. "Opium rain" which comes at the end of the rainy season produces the emergence of the friendly shoots.

During this period, the planting site is thinned, leaving only the strongest shoots. During December and January, the mountains are ablaze with snowy white and purplish red flowers. The petals gradually drop, exposing the heads of the poppies. When they have grown to about five centimeters in diameter, the Meo go to the planting site with triple-blade knives. Cutting starts only in the afternoon and the sap released is left in the head until the next morning. By this time, it hardens and takes on a brownish tinge. The mountain men scrupulously scrape each head with broad blunt knives, collecting the raw opium in special cups made from coconuts. A cup of this type filled with opium costs approximately 12 American dollars. After a final curing process, the opium is purified so as to eliminate its strong, unpleasant odor and it is ready for sale. The price is approximately 50 dollars per kilogram--worthless in comparison with the price at resale on the foreign market. Thus, the Meo people involved in cultivating the "devil's flowers" are mercilessly exploited by criminal syndicates while barely eking out a livelihood for themselves.

During its colonial supremacy in Indochina, France dispatched experts there for the purpose of teaching the Meo to purify the opium. In 1889, the colonial administration set up an Indochinese opium monopoly in order to corner the market on Meo opium and resell it at the highest possible price. More than five thousand opium dens were opened in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. In good years--and there were many--the profits from Asian narcotics addicts visiting opium dens covered a third of the French expenditures to maintain its colonial administration in Indochina.

Having insured a stable market for the sale of opium, the colonialists lured a portion of the Meo tribe to their side which resulted in their being able to recruit these mountain people into special detached units to fight against the patriotic forces, especially in Laos.

After the defeat of the French colonial army in Indochina and its withdrawal from there in 1954, the opium politics were closely copied by the American imperialists. In 1954, several Meo units were recruited by CIA agents attempting to put together an "army" to carry out military actions against the growing liberation movement of the Pathet-Lao in the north of Laos. Vang Pao, who had been a sergeant in the French Army was installed at the head and the secret base of Long Tieng was set up 90 miles from Vientiane (the American Congress did not learn of its existence until 10 years later).

By 1965, the CIA had an "army" of nearly 20,000 men and a few thousand "village soldiers" trained by the "Green Berets." This "underground army" was used by Americans for guard duty at radio-locator installations spread along the border with North Vietnam and to conduct military actions against Pathet-Lao units.

In the course of the liberation war in Laos, the "army" of Vang Pao was completely decimated and at present only disorganized bands are left. The government of the young Laotian Peoples' Democratic Republic has been largely successful in keeping the production of opium under control.

The hub of the narcotics industry is fixed in Burma and Thailand. The primary functionary in the opium trade in the "triangle" region is presently Khun Sa, leader of the "Shan United Army" who has about 3,500 well-equipped soldiers under his command. Khun Sa is a member of the Shan royal family but is half Chinese: his Chinese name is Chang Chifu. Khun Sa's caravans transport narcotics from the production sites to resale points near the Burmese-Thai border where they are sold to brokers. According to reports from the Thai press, the biggest wholesale brokers in Thailand are the [Khuatsyao]. Based on material from the American Drug Enforcement Administration, Khun Sa sells from 70 to 100 tons of narcotics in Thailand annually.

Khun Sa's primary competition in the sale of narcotics is a Maoist faction of the Communist party of Burma which controls approximately a third of the "Golden Triangle" territory. During an encounter with representatives from the American Drug Enforcement Administration in 1977, Khun Sa declared that the forces of the "communists" which number about 8,000 men are spread out within the Keng-Tung region on the border with southern China and ship opium from there for resale to brokers. Arms, ammunition and foodstuffs are turned into the profitable resources.

The soldiers and officers of the 93d Guomindang Division have a major share in the contraband trade in narcotics. Guomindang personnel fleeing to Thailand after formation of the CPR in 1949 set up settlements there whose residents were equipped with modern American-made weapons; strict discipline and precise organization are maintained among them. Guomindang personnel

themselves are not involved in this trade but they do accept substantial bribes from brokers to escort the opium caravans. It is not surprising that caravans are frequently subject to armed assaults by gangster bands along the roads used by the "opium trail" caravans which run through mountains and jungles. This is where actual battles flare up. The government of Thailand closes one eye to the activity of the Guomindang--according to an unspoken agreement, it acts a "sanitary cordon" on the infiltration route from Burma for the anti-government forces trying to use Thai territory for rest and recreation.

If not all the opium comes through Thailand, where does the remainder disappear? It is a fact that the road through Burma is virtually closed to opium. The government of Burma is trying to stop the spread of the opium poppy into the territory of its country. Burmese helicopters spray planting sites with toxic chemicals that destroy the seedlings. Over the past 4 years, this technique has been successful in eliminating more than 11,000 hectares of seedlings. At the same time, the news and telegraphic agencies of the Western nations are publishing reports that China is throwing vast quantities of narcotics onto the world market through Hong Kong and Macao. In the United States alone, about 27 million dollars is spent annually to purchase these evil poisons. It is apparent that no mean portion of these monies returns to China whose ruling circle is alarmed little by the fact that in the United States alone, more than 5,000 narcotics users die every year.

The problems of the "Golden Triangle" are quite complex and solving them is possible only through the concerted efforts of the nations in this region to eliminate one of the greatest evils of this century.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

HEROIN SEIZED IN DORTMUND, NUERNBERG

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 14 Jan 80 p 20

[Article: "Effective Attack On Drug Traffic. Police Arrested Several Dealers in Dortmund and Nuernberg. Large Amounts of Heroin Seized"]

[Text] Dortmund, 13 January (Reuter). A carefully prepared action against a Turkish drug smuggling ring by officers of the drug department of the Dortmund police resulted in the seizure of 27.5 kilograms of high quality heroin with a retail value of 13 million marks. Police chief Wolfgang Manner told journalists over the weekend that investigators had arrested nine members of the gang, of whom five were jailed pending investigation. Following intensive investigations and weeks of surveillance of the drug scene in the Ruhr area the 33-year old ringleader was uncovered and arrested. The father of three small children, posing as a worker in the FRG, had on 1 January returned from a trip to Turkey in a van previously modified in Dortmund.

A skillful rebuilding of the fuel tank had resulted in a secret compartment in which the Turk had smuggled 52 bags of "Heroin 4" with a purity of 70-90 percent.

Before the smuggler and his accomplices, who all come from the same Kurd village, could transmit the drug, the investigators hit. After the arrest of the nine Turks a red plastic suitcase was discovered hidden in bushes near the town limits of Bochum, containing 51 bags of heroin stashed by the ringleader. The police secured the 52nd bag at a gang member's residence in Castrop-Rauxel.

Police chief Manner noted that in the opinion of the police the Turks are hired transporters of the "hot stuff." None of the five arrested or of the four accomplices is a drug addict. Manner did stress, however, that the successful action, one of the most significant of recent years, was an effective attack on drug traffic in the FRG.

Last weekend the Bavarian police also hit drug traffic, seizing some 12 kilograms of heroin from Turkish dealers in Nuernberg and Fureth. The authorities had observed a rooming house in Nuernberg that was reported to have been a station for Turkish drug dealers. Further, the officers learned that Turks residing in Hesse were planning to obtain heroin in Nuernberg that was to be sold in Wiesbaden. A car with Offenbach tags was taken under observation when it stopped at the boarding house. While transferring a plastic bag in the vicinity of the main railway station [words missing] were arrested, having in their possession more than 1 kilogram of heroin.

As a result of questioning the investigators were led to an apartment in Fuerth, where 10.6 kilograms of heroin had been stored. The manager of the boarding house in Nuernberg was arrested as the suspected organizer of the drug transaction.

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CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA SEEKS TO COMBAT DRUG USE

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 9 Jan 80 p 22

[Article by Hartwig Suhrbier: "Government Wants To Do More To Reduce the Horror"]

[Text] Duesseldorf, 8 January. North Rhine-Westphalian Minister President Johannes Rau (SPD) called the "Drug conference of the Land government" that convened Tuesday under his chairmanship "an attempt to better limit what is already happening, and to do more so that less horror will occur." In view of the disturbing increase of the drug problem the Land government had invited numerous experts and representatives of social organizations to discuss a Land-wide program for a more intensive campaign against drug abuse. "If we do not communicate with each other about joint action, then developments will outpace us, and we could be guilty of contributing to a negative development," said Rau, stressing the political importance of this initiative.

Rau, with widespread agreement of the participants, emphasized how the social milieu, shaped by each individual and every social group, determined a young person's potential path to drug dependency. One should ask if the young people do not perceive their life as "too much without meaningful goals, too much oriented toward achievement, property and consumption." The turn to drugs was said to be a fake satisfaction, a reaction to the "emotional impoverishing and alienation" of our society.

Although the number of drug consumers has not risen significantly in North Rhine-Westphalia during the last years, declared Social Minister Friedhelm Farthmann (SPD), there have been alarming structural changes. The number of drug-related deaths in 1979 was 133, double that of the previous year; moreover, an increasing number of very young persons is rapidly becoming addicted. A serious danger at the present time is the fact that heroin is currently up to 90 percent cheaper than in 1978, being at the same time very pure and having thus a more dangerous effect.

Farthmann and all experts called early smoking and alcohol consumption, usually followed by pill consumption the entryway to drug addiction. Farthmann told that as many as 30 percent of the 12-14-year-olds were smoking. In view of the dangers of the "socially tolerated drugs" nicotin and alcohol-- in 1978 there were 944 deaths due to alcohol poisoning in North Rhine-

Westphalia alone--dangers that young persons generally do not realize, and because of their importance as "introductory drugs" several experts called for a general ban on alcohol advertising. Also, stiffer penalties were demanded for those selling alcohol to children.

The essential demands regarding an effective campaign against drug addiction and for therapy made at the conference were: the creation of a number of therapeutic residences; the extending of drug counseling stations into general conflict- and crisis counseling facilities, as well as the hiring of more qualified treatment personnel. The last point is considered the decisive critical point, since there are too few of those personnel.

Rau considered significant the proposal to suspend penalties for drug consumers and petty dealers pending detoxification treatment, designed to prevent further criminalization and a career as a fixer.

Minister of Education Juergen Girgensohn (SPD) called for new approaches to education and prevention in the schools; an order to that effect made in 1973 had not had the hoped-for effect. According to experts up to 30 percent of the students in the higher classes are using hashish, even in rural districts.

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CSO: 5300

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE--Wiesbaden--Officials from the Hesse Land Criminal Investigation Office (LKA), in cooperation with local police, have arrested two Turks, aged 30 and 35, and seized more than 6 kg of heroin. An LKA spokesman in Wiesbaden said today that the two dealers got the heroin--sufficient for 26,000 injections--apparently from the same source. [LD060522 Hamburg DPA in German 1152 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD]

CSO: 5300

COUNTRY SECTION

SPAIN

SEVEN URUGUAYAN MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG RING CAPTURED

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Jan 80 p 14

[Text] During the past few hours, seven Uruguayans associated with prostitution and the drug traffic who belong to a vast network of international South American criminals operating for some time in Europe were captured in Spain.

Thus far, the police have disclosed the identities of only three of them, who were identified as Miguel Angel Viera Sierra, aged 28; Miguel Angel Orrego Curbelo, aged 34; and Martha Haidee Antonia Falero Zabala, aged 32. All have extensive criminal records.

Miguel Angel Viera, one of the leading members of the group, was imprisoned in our country when he was discovered to have been linked with a prostitution ring that was disbanded some years ago. Moreover, after leaving prison upon the termination of his sentence, he went to Europe, embarking on a long criminal career there.

In Sweden, the police arrested him, confiscating 2 kilograms of heroin from him, for which he was jailed on a charge of drug smuggling. When released, he was expelled from the country and went to Lisbon, joining an extremely dangerous ring with which he made an armed holdup of the Overseas National Bank, stealing the sum of 350,000 Portuguese escudos and several million in our currency.

He carried out this holdup with three Portuguese and three Spaniards, who were jailed as a result of a court order.

In time, he crossed the border, heading for Las Palmas, Spain, where he was arrested with a woman identified as Maria Toledo, with a record for forgery and prostitution, and was convicted of similar crimes.

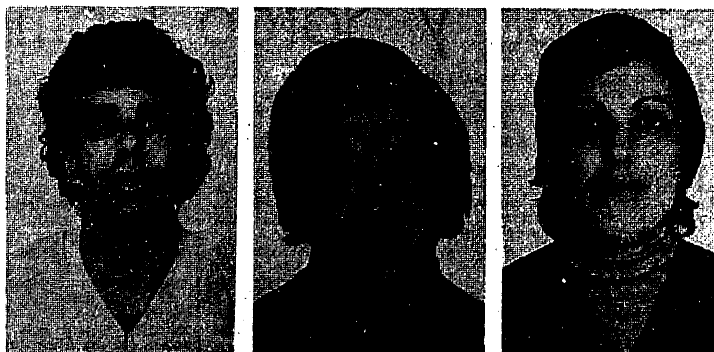
Miguel Angel Orrego Curbelo, for his part, was captured for the first time in Albacete, Spain, where he was tried on charges of prostitution and drug trafficking, and was expelled from the country.

Subsequently, in Andorra, he was arrested with a woman and charged with fraud through the use of stolen letters of credit.

And, finally, the woman apprehended with these two international criminals, Martha Falero Zabala, who was arrested in Albacete, was found guilty of charges of prostitution, for which she was expelled.

Within a few hours, the INTERPOL branch in our country will send to Spain the pertinent data as well as the Uruguayan penal records on the offenders who have been captured and who will surely be expelled from the mother country.

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CSO: 5300



Miguel Angel Viera Sierra, Miguel Angel O'rego Curbelo y Martha Haydée Antonia Falero Zabala.

TURKEY

BRIEFS

DUTCH HEROIN SMUGGLERS ARRESTED--Two Dutch citizens, one of them female, were arrested at the Ipsala border crossing for possession of 9 kilos of heroin valued at 500 million Turkish lira which they are alleged to have picked up in Turkey. [Text] [Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 11 Jan 80 p 3]

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UNITED KINGDOM

JAIL TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG RACKET

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jan 80 p 19

[Text]

AN Irishman wielding a sledgehammer in the back of a van signalled the end for an international drugs racket, an Old Bailey judge heard yesterday.

A motorist heard the banging noises and alerted police.

The van was stopped and inside officers found half-a-ton of cannabis worth £500,000.

It had been concealed in huge altar stones addressed to a bogus church, said Mr DAVID CALVERT SMITH, prosecuting.

The stones were addressed to a fictitious priest in Steven-dale Road, Fulham. They were driven there, from a dock depot, by FRANCIS O'DOHERTY, 22, and ROBERT HOWE, 35.

But when they arrived in Fulham, there was an argument, and they drove off with the stones, said Mr Calvert Smith.

Open and shut case

As they drove through Wembley, O'Doherty started smashing open the stones with a sledgehammer, but the noise was heard by Mr Alfred Smith, 54, of Marks Park Estate, Wembley, who was even more suspicious when the van's rear shutter was raised and closed quickly.

When police stopped them, both O'Doherty and Howe claimed they had no idea what was in the stones. They said they were breaking them up prior to dumping them.

O'Doherty, of Highbury Park, Highbury was jailed for four years and Howe, of Nelson Road, Hornsey, for three years for conspiring to supply the cannabis.

Mr Recorder HAZAN, QC, awarded Mr Smith £100 out of public funds for his actions. "He noticed what other motorists might have regarded as trivial," he said.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

WOMAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS ON DRUG CHARGES

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

A "poor widow" arrested at a railway station turned out to be part of an international drug smuggling ring, a judge heard yesterday.

When the woman's council home in Mortimer Street, Oldham, Lancs., was searched, drugs valued at £100,000 were uncovered.

ZAHNAT AKHTAR KHAN, 49, a mother of six, admitted eight charges of possessing heroin, morphine and cannabis oil, and possessing the drugs with intent to supply them.

She was jailed for seven years at Manchester Crown court yesterday and told by Judge BASIL GERRARD: "If you play for high stakes, you must put up with the heavy penalties which follow if you are caught."

"I am satisfied you were an importer of these very dangerous drugs and that you were on your way to distribute them and sell them for a profit of many, many thousands of pounds when arrested."

Samples for buyers

Mr DAVID HOOSON, prosecuting, said last September Khan, was arrested at Piccadilly Railway Station, Manchester. With her, she had a number of morphine tablets and some cannabis oil. "These were samples she was taking to show prospective customers," he said.

When questioned, Khan denied knowing anything about the drugs. "I am just a poor widow," she said.

Det. Insp. JIM SMELLIE told the judge that letters found at Khan's home referred to drug prices in Bangladesh and to arrangements being made to find a supplier of heroin.

In one letter, the writer said there was no need to worry about customs officials at Dacca airport as he had "high contacts" there.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

CANNABIS SEIZURE--Merseyside police and Customs and Excise officers have seized cannabis in the port of Liverpool valued at more than 100,000 pounds on the open market. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Jan 80 p 3]

CSO: 5320

END